

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

The Lake County Board adopted Lake County Board of Health Ordinance, Article V, on November 12, 2013. This local ordinance provides the rules and regulations for onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) in the county. OWTS, commonly referred to as **septic systems**, are used to treat and disperse wastewater for both residential and commercial property. The systems are used in incorporated and unincorporated areas wherever public sewers do not exist.

OWTS are designed based on estimated wastewater flow and soil conditions. Soil conditions are determined by a professional soil scientist/classifier. Based on the data received from the [soil evaluation](#), the soil suitability can be determined, and ultimately will be the basis for a particular system type described in Article V. The key characteristic in soil suitability for OWTS is the depth to the seasonal soil saturation/high groundwater table.

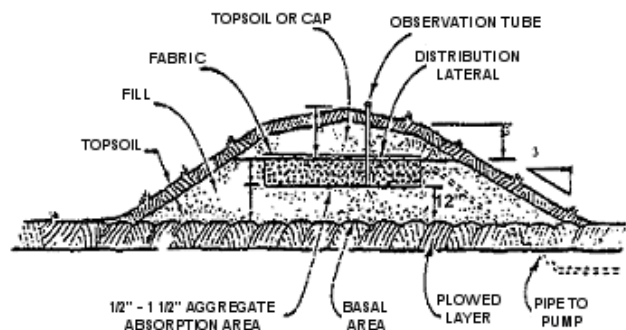
There are basically five system types presented in the ordinance. The difference in the system types is defined by the depth of seasonal soil saturation/water table (see illustrations below). The treatment of the effluent is critical in protecting the receiving environment and aquifers from which many water wells draw drinking water

To receive approval to construct an OWTS (septic system), the following steps must be accomplished:

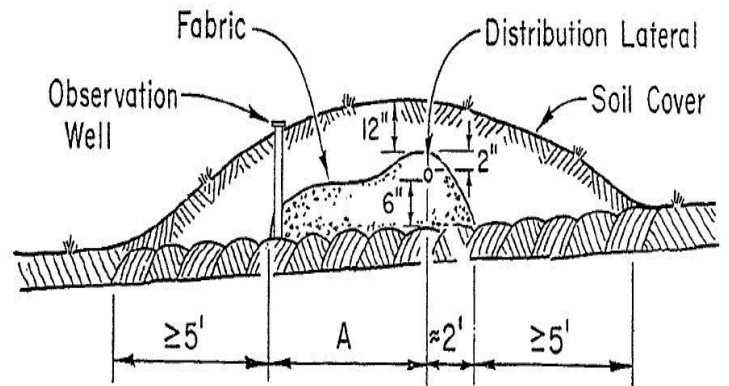
1. A [soil evaluation](#) must be completed by a licensed soil classifier from either the Health Department or an independent soil classifier.
2. The results of the evaluation are then used by a licensed septic system designer/engineer to design a system.
3. Plans are then submitted to the Health Department for review.
4. The processes involved to obtain other permits you may need for your project are specific to your municipality or the county depending on whether your property is in incorporated or unincorporated Lake County.
5. To install the system, contact a licensed septic system contractor to apply for a construction permit (valid for a 120day period).

Some common system types are shown below.

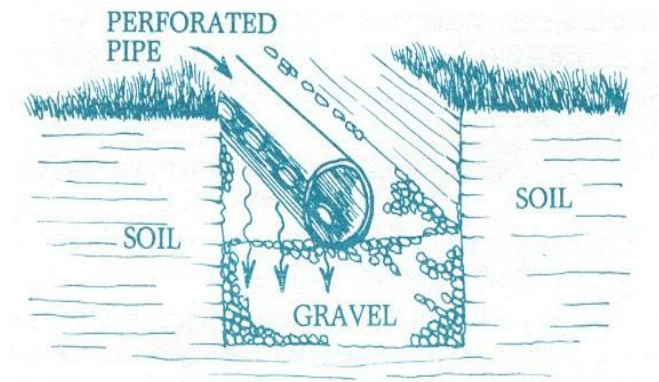
Type 5 Mound System (2 Beds)



Type 4 At-Grade System



Type 1 Trench System



Drip Dispersal System

